



Lorrie Toni's Colorado Community College System (CCCS) colleagues describe her as a "mentor, guider, teacher, and advocate" for Colorado equity professionals. As Perkins Director, Lorrie successfully manages the implementation of Colorado's State Perkins Plan and positively influences recruitment and retention rates of underrepresented genders in nontraditional career fields, all while providing the leadership that helps others develop into highly effective equity professionals.

Those who know Lorrie credit her with practicing what she preaches; much of her success is attributed to her own nontraditional career experience, ranging from automotive mechanic to student pilot! Those around her recognize that she, too, has overcome the odds—herself once a single mother who had to work two jobs to support her family.

Through the initiatives she directs, Lorrie continues to make a powerful impact in the lives of women in nontraditional career fields, helping them to recognize their potential, advance past what they believe are their own limitations, and increase their earning potential. She requires that all CCCS-funded projects are outcome based and data driven. This is why Colorado has seen a 3% increase in meeting certain Perkins nontraditional benchmarks.

Lorrie has been a catalyst for change in the educational experience of Colorado students, because she quietly dedicates each and every day to opening more doors for the underrepresented citizens of Colorado. Lorrie Toni's efforts embody precisely what an Unsung Hero should be.